

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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(71)Applicant : FUJITSU LTD

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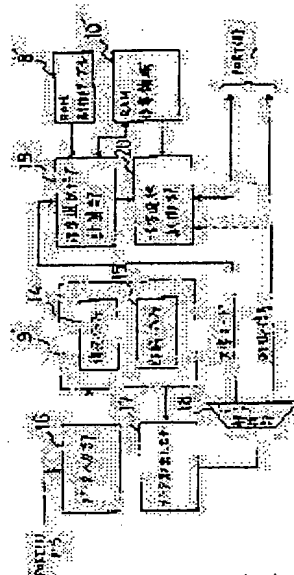
(72)Inventor : FUKUHARA HIROSHI

(54) CONTROLLING SYSTEM OF PRINTER

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To make it possible to simplify the constitution of an apparatus, by providing an immediate command buffer high in data outtake priority as input printing data storing buffer apart from successive command and character data buffers.

CONSTITUTION: A data input part 16 stores printing data in successive buffer 14 in the case of character data or successive command and stores the same in immediate buffer 15 in the case of printing command. In this case, a data outtake part 17 investigates the presence or absence of the content of the immediate buffer 15 at first and, if data is stored, reads the same and, if not stored, reads data from the successive buffer 14 to sent the same to a data analytical part 18. Herein, the kind of data from buffer 9' is discriminated and, with respect to successive or immediate command, the control signal corresponding thereto is transmitted to PORT2 while, with respect to character data, said control signal is transmitted to a type selecting data calculating part 19. By this method, the constitution of an apparatus can be simplified.



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1. Title of the Invention: PRINTER CONTROL SYSTEM

2. Claim

A printer control system having a printer operating in accordance with print data comprising sequential commands and character data which are executed in accordance with given order and immediate commands which are immediately executed when being supplied, the printer comprising: first buffer means for storing the sequential commands and the character data; second buffer means for storing the immediate commands; data input means for identifying a sequential command, character data, and immediate command in input print data, storing the sequential command and character data in the first buffer means, and storing the immediate command in the second buffer means; and data extracting means for extracting the immediate command stored in the second buffer means in preference to the sequential command and character data stored in the first buffer means, wherein control is executed in accordance with the order of print data extracted from the first and second buffer means.

3. Detailed Description of the Invention

[Technical Field of the Invention]

The present invention relates to a printer control system using sequential commands and immediate commands, and in particular, to a priority execution control system for immediate commands.

[Technical Background]

Print data supplied from a host to a printer includes, not only data representing characters to be printed, but also command data for executing various types of special operations. The command data is divided into two types which are respectively called "sequential commands" and "immediate commands".

Sequential commands are, for example, those such as a line feed (LF) and a carriage return (CR), and are sequentially executed in accordance with a position in a data string sent to the printer. Accordingly, since the commands are kept waiting in the printer until it finishes processing on print data, which has been sent, the commands can be handled similarly to the print data. The commands are temporarily stored in a buffer area of a memory with the print data.

In addition, immediate commands are, for example, those such as a forced reset command (ESCAPE) that resets internal registers and control flags into the initial value "zero", and a status request command that instructs an upper-level device to output the operating status of the printer. When

a command of this type is sent to the printer, it is immediately processed. This command is immediately executed regardless of the order of data, that is, even if unprocessed data remains.

As described above, regarding the sequential commands and the immediate commands, processing methods up to execution in the printer basically differ. Thus, it is required to provide the printer with different software and hardware mechanisms for both types. This is a part of the reason for high cost.